



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Fuquay Varina, North Carolina	Accident Number:	ERA20CA251
Date & Time:	July 14, 2020, 10:00 Local	Registration:	N1520P
Aircraft:	Piper PA 22	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Runway excursion	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

As the pilot approached the destination airport for landing, he felt that the elevator trim was not working properly. He elected to return to the 2,780-ft-long grass runway at his home airport. While approaching the airport he continued his attempts to adjust the pitch trim, to no avail. He further reported that even after his attempts to adjust the elevator trim, it felt as if there was too much nose down trim, as he had to maintain back pressure on the yoke to keep the wings level. As the approach continued, he felt that he could not slow the airplane down or descend enough and entered a slip. The airplane landed “long and fast,” and the brakes were not effective due to the damp grass. The airplane departed the end of the runway and the right wing was substantially damaged after it impacted a tree. After the accident, the pilot stated that he adjusted the elevator trim and the system seemed to work properly.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

The pilot's failure to attain a proper approach speed, which resulted in an overrun of the wet grass runway.

Findings

Aircraft	Airspeed - Not attained/maintained
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Environmental issues	Wet surface - Effect on operation
Environmental issues	Tree(s) - Contributed to outcome

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing-landing roll	Runway excursion (Defining event)
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	73, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	4-point
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	BasicMed Without waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	January 8, 2020
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	December 20, 2019
Flight Time:	532 hours (Total, all aircraft), 139 hours (Total, this make and model), 5 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N1520P
Model/Series:	PA 22 150	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1954	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	22-2385
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	June 26, 2020 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2000 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	3321 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	C91 installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-290-D2
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	135 Horsepower
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KHRJ,198 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	10 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	13:35 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	175°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	27°C / 23°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Fuquay Varina, NC (78NC)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	
Destination:	Fuquay Varina, NC (78NC)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	07:15 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Fuquay/Angier Field 78NC	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Airport Elevation:	349 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Wet
Runway Used:	14	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	2780 ft / 90 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	35.543609,-78.750831

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Boggs, Daniel
Additional Participating Persons:	Brad McCauley; FAA; Greensboro, NC
Original Publish Date:	June 1, 2021
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class 4
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=101607

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